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UNCLAS HARARE 002241

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SUBJECT: INDEPENDENT PAPER PRAISES SADC MOVE TO SIDELINE
MUGABE

- ¶1. Under headline "SADC commended for seeing light at last" the independent daily "The Daily News" dedicated its October 8 editorial to welcoming the decision by the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to block Robert Mugabe from SADC chairmanship. Excerpts:
- ¶2. ". . .The bigger political picture, ignoring the arguments about whether Zimbabwe withdrew its claim to the deputy chairmanship voluntarily, or was kicked out on its ear, is that SADC has at last seen the light. Most people in Zimbabwe had given up on SADC as an effective and active player in the democratization stakes in the region. . . This latest decision by the group, whatever Mugabe's spin doctors say of its origins, is to be commended. SADC has at last seen the light."

SULLIVAN